BRISTOL WARREN REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE

WORKSHOP

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 2006

The monthly workshop of the Bristol Warren Regional School

Committee was held in the Cafeteria of Mt. Hope High School, 199

Chestnut Street, in Bristol, RI, on Tuesday, November 14, 2006. The

Chairperson, Marjorie J. McBride, called the meeting to order at

approximately 7:07 p.m.

Marjorie J. McBride, William A. Estrella, Jr., William M. Present:

O'Dell, Paul Brule, Joyce M. Kinsella, John P. Saviano and Paul Silva;

Edward P. Mara, Superintendent; and Melinda L. Thies, Assistant

Superintendent for Secondary Curriculum, Assessment and

Instruction

Absent: Thomas E. Skuba and Beverly Z. Travers

OPENING BUSINESS

All present were invited to join in the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag.

Mrs. McBride announced that the District's Attorney, Andrew

Henneous' baby arrived.

PRESENTATIONS / DISCUSSIONS

The District and the Internet

Mrs. McBride said the District has had some issues with students' ability to access the internet inappropriately in the libraries; District internet policies are somewhat vague. She asked Mr. Paul Morris, Director of Technology, to explain what we have and what we are doing.

Mr. Morris reported that a parent recently called the Superintendent with concern that their child emailed the parent from school via their own home internet account, the concern being the possible other sites and emails the students can access. However, by using their home accounts at school, students access only the same areas that they can access from home. Our service, as well as most of the other RI districts, is through RINET and the filtering system has failed from time to time. The Committee discussed the role of the internet within the District, over-restricting high school students, the possibility of providing email accounts to students, and protective measures the District can take. Providing email accounts for students is costly and could not be handled by our server. A backup third party filtering system would cost approximately \$3 - 4,000 start up, plus \$4 - 5,000 per year. Some Committee members felt the security of our students is worth that price. Mr. Dan Richards, a parent, commented that students have the same email access as they do on their cell phones and asked who is liable when the filter fails; he supports a backup.

Mrs. McBride directed the Superintendent to have Mr. Morris work up a cost sheet for a safety net which we can control and report to the Budget Subcommittee.

Policy Book Software

Dr. Mara said the Policy Subcommittee asked Technology to research software for policy books. Mr. Morris reported a variety of systems available. One allows us to put a policy out to the district, track whether employees read and understand the policy and will even quiz them. Also available are searching capabilities by topic, which was felt to be a more valuable feature. The cost of the software would depend on the number of concurrent users and number of people allowed to post or edit. The Committee discussed hiring a typist to type our policies to post; however, 90% of our policies are already in electronic format. Mrs. McBride asked Dr. Mara to come up with the cost of putting our policy book on line in the fashion we use now and report back to the Policy Subcommittee.

SUPERINTENDENT'S ISSUES/UPDATES

Educational Foundation

Dr. Mara reported the first meeting of the Kickemuit Education Foundation was held last week. The name Kickemuit was chosen because the Kickemuit River flows through both Warren and Bristol. Four people are very interested in serving on the Board of Directors;

Dr. Mara would like a total of six or seven. All paperwork is finished as is the 501C3; they are ready to begin raising funds beginning in early March and will probably have two to three fundraisers per year. Dr. Mara has asked his Community Education Committee to volunteer their help. The Foundation is a separate entity apart from the District and Dr. Mara will serve as an ex-officio, non-voting member. The Foundation will not supplement the District budget, it is to provide programs. Mrs. McBride thanked Dr. Mara for sticking with the idea when it became rather bleak.

ROCKWELL BUILDING COMMITTEE REPORT

Mr. Estrella reported the final meeting was held earlier this evening; the final invoices were reviewed; the project was completed under budget; the traffic flow is more effective, even with the increased number of students. The Committee requests a plaque for the new building. Dr. Mara commended Dennis Gregson for sticking with the entire project as well as Bob Pugh and John Foster and Peter Dwyer; many people did a great job. Mrs. McBride commented that the new school looks like it has always been there—proof that the job was well done. Dr. Mara said the School Committee, in a very short time, has moved mountains.

HUGH COLE BUILDING COMMITTEE REPORT

Mrs. McBride reported that this subcommittee met last week and

reviewed change orders, all approved except #63 and all of Mr. Brule's comments, in his absence, were considered; Farrar was given permission to continue to authorize small change orders (up to \$5,000). Mr. Estrella said parents, teachers and staff toured the building last week and were impressed; the project is on time and under budget and there was discussion about conducting a School Committee meeting at the site. The new addition was recently vandalized by two students and the perpetrators caught; Dr. Mara said the parent is being very cooperative and taking responsibility and we are working with the Warren Police Department and the Juvenile Hearing Board to gain restitution. Mr. Saviano asked if more security cameras are needed; Mr. Estrella said there is going to be discussion with Mr. Morris and the electronics people. Mr. Estrella commented that Lusi Construction went over and above expectations with cleanup of the vandalism.

COLT ANDREWS BUILDING COMMITTEE REPORT

Mrs. McBride reported that the Committee authorized payment of \$141,000 to the Town of Bristol for the demolition of the Pastime. The public is welcome to these meetings.

CHAIRPERSON'S INITIATIVES

School Committee Issues List

Mrs. McBride directed the internet policy issue and the policy book

software be added to the list.

Mrs. McBride also asked about the list of on-going facilities projects. Dr. Mara said a format is being worked up and will be ready for the November 27 business meeting.

Mrs. McBride asked Dr. Mara about the trip planned to Illinois. Dr. Mara reported that he, Mrs. Thies, two Mt. Hope administrators and four Mt. Hope teachers will be visiting Adlai Stevenson High School which has been showcased as a very successful learning community and rated the top high school in the country for the past ten years. The high school, brought to its current level by Rick Dufour, is visited regularly by other school districts across the United States, including Barrington and Tiverton who have said the visit is well worth the time and expense. The cost of the visit will be covered by grant funds; the team will leave on Sunday, December 3rd and return on Monday evening, December 4th. In Dr. Mara's and Mrs. Thies' absence, Mrs. Cerullo, who has a superintendent's certificate, will be in charge.

BUDGET/FACILITIES SUBCOMMITTEE REPORT

Dr. Mara reported the Committee has done preliminary work on the 2008 budget; District administrators will meet with high school administration and department heads, as well as middle school administrators and elementary principals. Facilities work has focused on OCR issues at the high school which will be covered by

this year's budget. Mrs. McBride forewarned that next year's budget will be tight.

PERSONNEL/CONTRACT SUBCOMMITTEE REPORT

The Council 94 contract will be discussed in Executive Session.

POLICY/COMMUNITY AFFAIRS SUBCOMMITTEE REPORT

This Committee has nothing new to report. Mr. Saviano commented that it has been an absolute pleasure to serve on this Committee, his constituents have done a wonderful job, and he would like to remain a member in the future.

PUBLIC FORUM ON ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA None.

Booster Club

Mr. Estrella said the Club is off to a great start. The officers are:

President—Chris Ferreira, Vice-President—Mike Kmieciak,

Treasurer—Mary Mello, and Secretary—Deb Nerone. Their first

fundraiser, Turkey Trot (a walk-a-thon), will be next week.

Mt. Hope Home Building Project

Mr. Saviano stated, for the record, that a group of contractors held a golf tournament and donated \$9,000 to the Program for scholarships; a special account for the students will be opened; hopefully, more

community organizations will raise funds for the group since these students are our future contractors, plumbers and electricians. Mrs. McBride also thanked these contractors for stepping up to the plate for our children.

EXECUTIVE SESSION – 8:21 PM

In accordance with Open Meeting Laws 42-46-5(a)(1)-(9), 2(b), Mr. Silva motioned to go into Executive Session at 8:21 PM for an update on the Council 94 contract. Mr. O'Dell seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

RESUMPTION OF MEETING - 8:58 PM

Discussed in Executive Session was the Council 94 Contract.

ADJOURNMENT – 9:00 PM

There being no further business to discuss, Mr. Estrella, seconded by Mr. O'Dell, motioned to adjourn at 9:00 PM. The vote was unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,

William M. O'Dell, Secretary

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